

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

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CONGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: OCTOBER 16 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. NYT (REUTER) REPORTS GKR INFO MINISTER ANNOUNCEMENT THAT LON NOL WOULD NOT ACCEPT IN TAM'S RESIGNATION EITHER AS PREMIER OR FROM HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL SINCE IT WOULD SPLIT THE GOVT., AND THAT IN TAM AGREES TO STAY ON AT LEAST UNTIL UN VOTES ON CAMBODIA REPRESENTATION, AND UNTIL AFTER THE KISSINGER PEKING VISIT (ALSO WP; AP). REUTER FURTHER QUOTES GOVT. SOURCE THAT ADM. GAYLER'S WEEKEND VISIT WAS PARTLY TO DISSUADE IN TAM FROM RESIGNING.

2. FANK SAYS KAF C-47 WAS DAMAGED BY KI FIRE AND EXPLODED TRYING TO LAND AT POCHENTONG (AP).

3. SECOND CONTINGENT OF 59 PL TROOPS ARRIVES AT VIENTIANE FROM HANOI, FOLLOWING FIRST GROUP OF 80 THAT ARRIVED OCT. 13 (AP).

4. PRES. OF VN SENATE, NGUYEN VAN HUYEN, LAUNCHES FREEDOM PARTY, FIRST OFFICIAL OPPOSITION GROUP SINCE DECEMBER DECREE ELIMINATED ALL BUT BIGGEST PARTIES; FREEDOM PARTY MAY BE ONLY ONE ABLE TO MEET DECREE REQUIREMENTS. HUYEN, WHO WILL LOSE SENATE PRESIDENCY WHEN NEW OFFICERS ELECTED THIS WEEK, IS SOUTHERN CATHOLIC WITH MUCH SUPPORT AMONG CATHOLICS WHO FLED NVN IN 1954, AND SAYS NEW PARTY IS ANTI-COMMUNIST AND A "CONSTITUTIONAL OPPOSITION PARTY" (REUTER, SUN; WP).

5. AIR AMERICA THREATENS CUT ICCS SERVICE OCT. 19 UNLESS 500,000 DOLLARS IN OVERDUE BILLS FOR AUG.
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PAID; COMMISSION OPERATIONS WOULD BE PARALYZED BY CUTOFF. ICCS NOW ABOUT 8 MILLION DOLLARS IN DEBT, APPEALS TO US, NVN, SVN AND VC FOR MORE FUNDS (SHARROCK, REUTER; AP; WP).

6. SHARROCK (REUTER) REPORTS FROM SAIGON THAT DIPLOMATIC INCIDENT IMMINENT WITH IMPENDING VISIT OF HUNGARIAN DEP. FONMIN MARJAI, WHO WANTS TO INSPECT HUNGARY'S

ICCS CONTINGENT AND VISIT VC-CONTROLLED LOC NINH. GVN OPPOSES VISIT TO LOC NINH AND SAYS MARJAI PROPOSAL FOR VISIT IS "VAGUE AND CONFUSING"; GVN WILL GRANT HIM DIPLOMATIC TRANSIT VISA "AT MOST." AP REPORTS FROM SAIGON THAT MARJAI WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO LAND THOUGH PREVIOUSLY CLEARED BY THE GVN DELEGATION TO THE JMC; DECISION WAS REVERSED AT "HIGHEST GOVERNMENT LEVEL". MARJAI'S PLANE OVERDUE BECAUSE OF DELAY AT BANGKOK, AND GVN CONTACTING RTG TO AVOID INCIDENT AT TAN SON NHUT. GVN FONMIN SPOKESMAN SAYS QUESTION OF ENTRY BEING STUDIED, BUT LOC NINH VISIT OUT.

7. COMMUNISTS FIRE ANTI-TANK ROCKETS AT TRAIN IN RUBBER PLANTATION AREA 30 MI. EAST OF SAIGON, KILLING 2 CIVILIANS AND WOUNDING 12. VC LAST JULY TOLD 2 DETAINED ICCS CANADIANS THAT THEY CONTROL AREA AND WOULD ATTACK TRAINS PASSING THROUGH WITHOUT PERMISSION; BUT GVN TRYING EXPAND AND SPEED UP RR SYSTEM (REUTER).

8. VC CLAIM CAPTURE OF GVN POSITION IN BACH MA AREA NEAR HUE AND DECIMATION OF 200 DEFENDERS, WHILE GVN SAYS POSITION ABANDONED BY 60 MEN ON OCT. 12 AFTER HEAVY SHELLING. VC SPOKESMAN ASSERTS AREA WAS VC-CONTROLLED UNTIL APRIL WHEN ARVN DROVE THEM OUT (AP).

9. GVN CLAIMS 91 COMMUNIST C-F VIOLATIONS, SAYS 6 ARVN AND 12 VC/NVA KILLED AT TAM QUAN ON CENTRAL COAST AND NEAR KONTUM (AP). ARVN SAYS 30 COMMUNISTS KILLED IN ATTACK ON VILLAGE 18 MI. SE OF DA NANG; VC INTENSIFYING ACTION NEAR KONTUM IN PAST 2 DAYS (REUTER).

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10. AP REPORTS 2 THOUSAND STUDENTS DEMONSTRATING IN KL TUESDAY; MOB RIPS US FLAG FROM ATOP BUILDING HOUSING US EMBASSY AND BURNS IT ALONG WITH EFFIGIES OF NIXON AND MOSHE DAYAN; DEMANDS CLOSING OF US CULTURAL CENTER.

THAILAND

11. BANGKOK "ANARCHY" SUBSIDES WITH DEPARTURE FROM COUNTRY OF THANOM, SON NARONG AND PRAPHAS (AP CHITRIB, PHINQ; UPI, NYDN). AP (BANGKOK) REPORTS SHOPS REOPENING AND TRAFFIC FLOWING AGAIN. BUT HOSPITALS SAY AT LEAST 283 PERSONS KILLED, HUNDREDS INJURED. DOS OFFICIALS SAY THEY DO NOT REGARD UPHEAVAL AS AIMED AT US (AP, NYDN), AND DO NOT ANTICIPATE CHANGE IN

RTG'S SUPPORT OF US SEASIA POLICY (WP BURGESS).

12. BURGESS, IN BANGKOK, REPORTS SANYA IS EXPECTED
TO BRING MAJOR CHANGES IN RTG'S FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC
POLICIES. MANY OBSERVERS FEEL HE WILL SEEK REMOVAL
OF US AIRMEN TO ENCOURAGE DETENTE WITH PRC AND NVN.
BURGESS SAYS VIRTUALLY ALL TANKS, HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS,
MACHINE GUNS AND AMMO USED AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS
WERE US-BUILT OR SUPPLIED BY MAP. ADDS THAT ALL
THAI WITH WHOM HE SPOKE EXPRESSED RELIEF ON LEARNING
3 MILITARY
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